

Size: 4,616 acres
Mission: Provide airlift services for troops, cargo, equipment, passengers, and mail
HRS Score: 31.94 (Area D/American Lake Garden Tract); placed on NPL in September 1984
 42.24 (Washrack/Treatment Area); placed on NPL in July 1987; deleted from NPL in September 1996
IAG Status: Federal Facility Agreement signed in August 1989; Consent Decree with State of Washington signed in February 1992
Contaminants: VOCs, SVOCs, metals, petroleum/oil/lubricants, pesticides, and radioactive waste
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: \$18.3 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): \$8.7 million (FY2016)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites: FY1996



Tacoma, Washington

Restoration Background

Environmental studies identified 65 sites at the installation. Sites include fire training areas, spill areas, landfills, and waste pits.

Two sites were placed on the National Priorities List (NPL): the Area D/American Lake Garden Tract (ALGT) and the Washrack/Treatment Area (WTA). Work began at the ALGT site in FY82, after trichloroethene (TCE) was detected in off-site residential wells. An on-site former landfill that was active in the 1960s and 1970s was identified as the source of the TCE. The installation initiated the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the ALGT site in FY87 and completed it in FY91. The installation designed a groundwater extraction and treatment system in FY92 and FY93. In early FY94, the installation completed construction and began operating the groundwater treatment system.

The RI/FS for the WTA site, a former outdoor aircraft wash area, was performed from FY90 to FY92. The Record of Decision (ROD) for one part of the WTA site required only groundwater monitoring of the leach pits. The ROD for the other part of the site specified that fuel floating on the shallow water table should be removed and fuel-contaminated soil evaluated for cleanup. In FY93, the installation began a pilot test for passive fuel removal and evaluation of natural attenuation, with positive conclusions.

In FY95, McChord completed studies at two State of Washington (WA) listed sites (SS-34 and WP-44) to evaluate the feasibility of bioremediation. The state agreed with the study's conclusions that bioremediation with long-term monitoring (LTM) was appropriate for the two sites. The installation also implemented LTM of the natural attenuation at the WTA site and requested that EPA remove the site from the NPL.

In FY96, the installation designated no further action for the last four active sites. All 65 sites at the installation were classified as Remedy in Place. EPA removed the WTA site from the NPL on September 26, 1996. Also in FY96, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) contact cards were mailed to more than 10,000 local residences. Only two residents were interested in starting a RAB. In FY97, McChord began evaluating natural attenuation of chlorinated solvents at ALGT.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation continued operating the ALGT groundwater treatment system. It also continued the LTM program, after making some cost reductions. Evaluation of natural attenuation of chlorinated solvents at ALGT was completed. The base has tentatively negotiated a reduction in the number of extraction wells at ALGT from three wells to one, in preparation for the five-year review of the treatment system. Progress has been made on obtaining written concurrence from the State of Washington for closeout of 27 sites.

Plan of Action

- Reduce operations at the groundwater treatment system at ALGT in FY99 and complete five-year review
- Continue the installation's LTM program in FY99 while reducing costs
- Obtain written concurrence from Washington regulatory agencies for closeout of 27 sites in FY99
- Reassess local community's interest in forming a RAB by mailing out 10,000+ public participation forms

FY99 FUNDING BY PHASE AND RELATIVE RISK

